

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 3, 5, 7 – 17 and 19 – 30 remain in the application. Claims 6 – 10 and 18 are objected to. Claims 1 – 3, 5, 11 – 17 and 19 – 30 stand finally rejected. Claims 1, 7, 8, 20, 25 and 29 are amended by this proposed amendment. Claim 4 is previously canceled and claims 6 and 18 are canceled by this proposed amendment. New claim 31 is added. No new matter is added. Although this Response is being timely filed, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3818.

Claims 6 – 10 and 18 are objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but are indicated to be patentable if rewritten in independent form. Responsive thereto, claims 6 is canceled and claim 1 is amended (and claims 20, 25 and 29 are similarly amended) to include the recitations of canceled, objected to claim 6, and so, is allowable. Likewise, claim 18 is canceled and rewritten as new claim 31, and so, is allowable. Further, claims 7 and 8 are amended to depend from amended claim 1, and so, are allowable. Entry of the amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to, and allowance of, claims 1, 7 – 10 and 31 is respectfully requested.

Further, since dependent claims include the differences with the cited art as the claims from which they depend, claims 2, 3, 5, 7 – 17 and 19 are allowable over all references of record. Entry of the amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of, and allowance of, claims 2, 3, 5, 7 – 17 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 11 – 13, 19 – 22, 24 – 27 and 29 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,285,660 to Ronen. Claims 3, 14– 17, 23, 28 and 30 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ronen in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,269,398 to Leong et al. or U.S. Patent No. 6,978,144 to Choksi.

Having amended claims 1, 20, 25 and 29 to include the recitations of objected to claim 6, any discussion of the rejection over Ronen alone, or further in combination with Leong et al., Choksi or any other reference of record is obviated by the amendment. Accordingly, claims 1, 20, 25 and 29 and all claims depending therefrom, as amended, are patentable. Entry of the amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 – 3, 5, 11 – 17 and 19 – 30 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and/or 103(a) is respectfully requested.

The applicants thank the Examiner for efforts, both past and present, in examining the application. Believing the application to be in condition for allowance, both for the amendment to the claims and for the reasons set forth above, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendment, reconsider and withdraw the final rejection of claims 1 – 3, 5, 11 – 17 and 19 – 30 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) and allow the application to issue.

Should the Examiner believe anything further may be required, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone No. listed below for a telephonic or personal interview to discuss any other changes.

Respectfully submitted,

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